

**REMARKS**

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3-6 and claims 9-12.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 371-5237.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300



Dated: January 19, 2005

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas P. Mueller", written over a horizontal line.

Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. 30,300

DPM: mkc